

Fallback Function Telecommunications Device

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1) FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention herein relates to a fallback function telecommunications
5 device for Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) systems, specifically one that
effectively prevents VOIP system failure.

2) DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

Plain old telephone service (POTS) communications is based on
conventional Public Services Telephone Network (PSTN) technology. However,
10 since PSTN is an analog telephone system that occupies a relatively large
bandwidth, telecommunications services providers have developed Voice Over
Internet Protocol (VOIP) technology wherein PSTN operation is performed
through the VOIP system which occupies less bandwidth such that under the same
bandwidth conditions, more simultaneous active telephone lines are
15 accommodated. Due to the narrower bandwidth of VOIP systems, cost is reduced
and consumer charges are subsequently lowered. As a result, more and more
telecommunications services providers and consumers are utilizing VOIP
telephones.

However, the VOIP systems installed by telecommunication services providers occasionally suffer VOIP system failure due to unforeseeable causes, resulting in telephone line disconnection that is a loss for both telecommunication services providers and consumers. At the same time, telecommunication services providers are faced with subscriber complaints and users frequently link via an outside line (i.e., PSTN) to prevent disconnection. As such, this increases cost and, furthermore, is quite convenient since users must switch lines manually.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary objective of the invention herein is to provide a fallback function telecommunications device that prevents Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) failure.

To enable a further understanding of the structure, innovative features, and operation of the present invention, the brief description of the drawings below is followed by the detailed description of the invention herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a block diagram of the most preferred circuit embodiment of the invention herein.

Figure 2 is a partial schematic diagram of the most preferred embodiment of

the invention herein illustrating the relay circuit.

Figure 3 is a partial schematic diagram of the most preferred embodiment of the invention herein illustrating the off-hook detection circuit.

Figure 4 is a partial schematic diagram of the most preferred embodiment of the invention herein illustrating the dummy load circuit.

Figure 5 is a partial schematic diagram of the most preferred embodiment of the invention herein detailing the circuit connections of the manual switch.

Figure 6 is a drawing of the panel layout of the most preferred embodiment of the invention herein.

Figure 7 is a drawing the most preferred embodiment of the invention herein in one operating mode.

Figure 8 is a drawing the most preferred embodiment of the invention herein in another operating mode.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to FIG. 1, FIG. 2, FIG. 3, FIG. 4, and FIG. 5, the most preferred embodiment of the invention herein provides a fallback function telecommunications device 10 comprised of a microprocessor 11, a relay circuit 21, an off-hook detection circuit 31, and a dummy load circuit 41, of which:

The said microprocessor 11 has processing operations capability and is

utilized to process an input signal and afterwards output a corresponding signal.

The said relay circuit 21, as indicated in FIG. 2, has an amplifier circuit 22 and a relay 24; the input terminal of the said amplifier circuit 22 is connected to the said microprocessor 11 and its output terminal is connected to the signal input
5 terminal of the said relay 24; the terminal at the first side of the said relay 24 is connected to the telephone line tip/ring terminal and the terminal at the second side of the said relay 24 is connected to the Public Services Telephone Network (PSTN) tip/ring terminal of the said microprocessor 11; as such, the telephone line tip/ring terminal is connected to the PSTN tip/ring terminal, but when the said relay 24 is
10 controlled into operation, the connection is switched to the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) tip/ring terminal of the said microprocessor 11; in other words, the connection of the telephone line tip/ring terminal is switched to the VOIP tip/ring terminal of the said microprocessor 11.

The said off-hook detection circuit 31, as indicated in FIG. 3, consists of
15 two light emitting diodes 32 in a positive-to-negative and negative-to-positive wiring arrangement and a phototransistor 34; one end of the said two light emitting diodes 32 is connected to the tip terminal of the said PSTN and the other end is connected to the shunt terminal of relay circuit 21 relay 24, while the said phototransistor 34 is connected to the ring detection terminal 12 of the said
20 microprocessor 11; when the two light emitting diodes 32 are powered and

generate light, the resulting operation of the phototransistor 34 changes the voltage at the ring detection terminal 12 to VDD, off-hook status is ascertained and, furthermore, a signal is sent to the said ring detection terminal 12.

The said dummy load circuit 41, as indicated in FIG. 4, consists of a full-wave bridge rectifier circuit 42 and a relay 44; one end of the said full-wave bridge rectifier circuit 42 is connected to the ring terminal of the said PSTN and its other end is connected to the shunt terminal at one side of the said relay 44; the shunt terminal at the other side of the said relay 44 is connected to the PSTN tip terminal and the signal input terminal of the said relay 44 is connected to the said microprocessor 11 which controls continuity between the said ring and tip terminals: as such, when the user is utilizing the VOIP system, the dummy load circuit 41 simulates a PSTN generated off-hook status, allowing the reception of busy signals by incoming telephone calls to the PSTN terminal in use.

The invention herein is also comprised of:

A manual switch 51, the circuit connections of which are indicated in FIG. 5, that connects the telephone line circuit tip and ring terminals to the PSTN tip and ring terminals as well as the VOIP tip and ring terminals and which is utilized to provide the user optional manual toggling of the telephone line circuit connections between the PSTN terminals and the VOIP terminals.

Referring to FIG. 5, FIG. 6, and FIG. 7, when the invention herein is

operated, the panel 61 shown in the drawings is utilized for configuration, wherein the said manual switch 51 is mounted on the panel 61, a telephone is connected to the second slot 62 (commonly referred to as VP2) of the VOIP system, the telephone line is connected to the slot 64 of the said PSTN, and the present invention is connected between the VP2 slot 62 and the PSTN slot 64; prior to initiating the operation of the invention herein and the prevailing condition is VP2 connected to PSTN, the user has conventional PSTN telephone operation; after the invention herein is initiated, the said relay circuit 21 switches the VP2 slot 62 into connection with the VOIP line (i.e., VOIP 2), at which time the user can utilize the VOIP system to effectively reduce telephone charges.

As indicated in FIG. 8, when a VOIP system problem occurs, the said relay circuit 21 (as shown in FIG. 2) switches the said VP2 slot into connection with the PSTN, at which time the user can utilize the PSTN, with the switching thereof automatically executed so that no manual actuation by the user is required.

The said manual switch 51 of the present invention provides a means of forced switching between PSTN and VOIP system usage as required by the user.

The invention herein can be equipped with two or more relay circuits to accommodate multiple VOIP system telephone lines.

Given the said structure, the invention herein provides the following advantages:

1. Additional line installation is not required: Since the present invention is capable of switching in accord with VOIP system conditions, there is no need to install additional PSTN lines, which saves the expenses involved.

2. Automatic toggling: Manual switching of the invention herein is not
5 required because it is capable of switching automatically in response to VOIP system conditions, which eliminates troublesome manual actuation.